

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John SZYMANSKI

Serial No.: 10/595,404

GAU: 3643

Filed: April 14, 2006

Examiner: Darren W. ARK

For: RETRIEVAL AID

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND  
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2006, please enter the following.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising a shaft having a line engagement member mounted at one end and the other end is adapted to in use be supported by the user for manipulation by the user, said engagement member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the engagement member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line wherein the engagement member is formed as a single substantially circular coil, wherein the coil comprises more than one turn but less than two turns, each turn being of the same diameter and wherein the coil extends beyond the end of the shaft, wherein the coil is inclined at an acute angle to an axis which extends from the end of the shaft and is coaxial with the central axis of the shaft such that the coil is angularly offset to one side of the central axis of the shaft.

2. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising a shaft having a line engagement member mounted at one end and the other end is adapted to in use be supported by the user for manipulation by the user, said engagement member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the engagement member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line wherein the engagement member is formed as a substantially circular coil comprising more than one turn but less than two turns each turn being of substantially the same diameter with the turns overlying each other, with one end being fixed to the shaft and the other end being the free end and wherein the coil extends beyond the end of the shaft, the portion of the coil proximate the free end extending outwardly from the perimeter of the underlying turn and wherein the coil is inclined at an acute angle to an axis which extends

from the end of the shaft and is coaxial with the central axis of the shaft such that the coil is angularly offset to one side of the central axis of the shaft.

3. (cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 1 or 2 wherein the adjacent portions of the turns of the coil are spaced from each other.

5. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 1 or 2 or 4 wherein the coil comprises a approximately  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turns.

6. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the base of the coil to which the shaft is attached is axially outermost relative to the shaft and the remainder of the coil.

7. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the claims 1 to 5 wherein the base of the coil to which the shaft is attached is axially innermost relative to the shaft and the remainder of the coil.

8. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the shaft is extendable.

9. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 8 wherein the shaft comprises a plurality of lengths which can be interconnected into an end to end relationship.

10. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 9 wherein each end of each length is provided with a threaded fitting which can be threadably engaged with a complementary fitting of another length to enable said ends to end interconnection.

11. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the shaft is resiliently flexible.

12. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 11 wherein the shaft is formed of a fibre reinforced plastics material.

13. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the shaft supports a retention member which is slidable along the shaft and a cord is fixed at one end to the retention member, the shaft being formed to prevent disengagement of the retention member from either end of the shaft.

14 (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein said coil has an internal diameter less than the width of object supported by the line.

15. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein said coil has an internal diameter greater than the width of object supported by the line.

16. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the line comprises a fishing line and the object comprises a fish hook and/or lure.

17. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the device can be used to retrieve a fish hook from the body of a fish.

18. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the shaft supports at least one stand-off coil intermediate the length of the shaft, said stand-off coil comprises more than one turn wherein the central axis of the coil is substantially parallel to the shaft.

19. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 18 wherein the stand-off coil is removably supported from the shaft.

20. (Original) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 18 as dependant from claim 9 or 10 wherein the stand-off coil is adapted to be clampingly received between the ends of a pair of interconnected lengths.

21. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the acute angle is between 10 and 60 degrees.

22. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of claims 1 and claims 4 to 21 as dependant from claim 1 wherein the coil has a length greater than one revolution and the free end of the coil extends outwardly from the outer perimeter of the coil.

23. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at claim 22 wherein the central axis of the free end subtends an angle of less than 90° to the central axis of the shaft.

24. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the coil is removable from the one end.

25. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein a handle is mounted to the other end.

26. (Previously presented) A retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising an engagement member adapted to be mounted to one end of a shaft, the other end of the shaft being adapted to in use be supported by the user for manipulation by the user, said engagement member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the engagement member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line wherein the engagement member is formed as a single substantially circular coil, wherein the coil comprises more than one turn but less than two turns, each turn being of the same diameter and wherein the coil will extend beyond the end of the shaft and will be inclined at an acute angle to an axis which extends from the end of the shaft and is coaxial with the central axis of the shaft such that the coil is angularly offset to one side of the central axis of the shaft.

### ELECTION

Applicant elects Species IV, Figs. 12-15 (free end portion 16 of coil located adjacent the shaft, coil has 1.25 turns, free end portion 16 extends substantially tangentially from the coil and is spaced slightly from the previous turn). The corresponding claims are 1, 4-5, 13-17, 21-23 and 27.

REMARKS

The status of claim 3 is cancelled. Claims 1, 2 and 4-27 remain in the application.

As required by the Examiner if the Office Action, the claims are presented to show that the status of claim 3 is cancelled.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

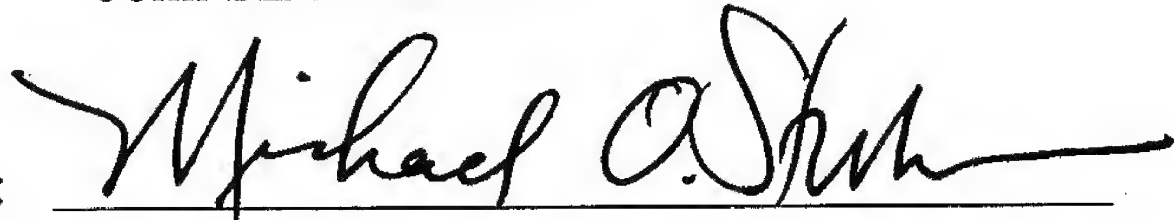
Favorable action is most earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

John SZYMANSKI

September 28, 2006

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael O. Sturm", written over a horizontal line.

Michael O. Sturm

Reg. No. 26,078

STURM & FIX LLP  
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076  
Telephone: (515) 288-9589  
Telefax: (515) 288-5311  
e-mail: [sturm@hslp.com](mailto:sturm@hslp.com)